

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-16

NEW YORK TIMES
29 MARCH 1982

U.S. Attorney for San Diego Summoned to Meet Superiors

Special to The New York Times

SAN DIEGO, March 28 — The United States Attorney for San Diego, William H. Kennedy, flew to Washington today for a meeting Monday with Justice Department officials to discuss the case of a suspect whose indictment in a multi-million-dollar theft ring has been blocked because of his intelligence connections.

Mr. Kennedy said Thursday that the Justice Department was blocking the indictment of the suspect because he was considered an indispensable source of intelligence information in Mexico and Central America.

Senior Justice Department officials confirmed Mr. Kennedy's account Saturday but said that he was jeopardizing sensitive international intelligence connections and that his dismissal was under consideration.

The San Diego Union reported in today's editions that Mr. Kennedy was to meet with Deputy Attorney General Edward C. Schnulz. The Attorney General, William French Smith, was quoted as saying the would be "just a meeting to gather the facts."

Mr. Kennedy, who was appointed by President Reagan last November, could not be reached for comment.

The suspect in the theft ring is Miguel Nassar Haro, former chief of Mexico's

Directorate of Federal Security, the equivalent of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mexican authorities said Saturday that his agency monitored movements of guerrilla leaders from El Salvador and Guatemala who used Mexico City as a base.

Mr. Nassar was implicated in the theft ring, which investigators say has stolen \$8.4 million in cars from San Diego and Orange County, by investigators and by other suspects, including agents of his directorate.

Mr. Kennedy made his remarks about the reluctance of C.I.A. and Justice Department officials to prosecute Mr. Nassar in an article last week in The Union.

Before becoming United States Attorney, Mr. Kennedy, 50 years old, served as Assistant District Attorney here and had a reputation for being low-key and an efficient administrator. In his current post, he has sought to attack illegal drug trafficking by seizing the assets of those involved.